



Aruba was on display at Maria Colege!

As the end of the school year approaches for Aruba's Youth, the Maria Colege Middle School in Oranjestad held a fair on Friday evening that showcased the many aspects of life on this island. The creativity of the students was stimulated as they were challenged to present all of the various elements that make Aruba, "Aruba." The classrooms were converted into mini-museums devoted to our money, history, politics, demographics of our mixed population, national holidays and traditions, flora and fauna, and all that makes the island unique. It was fun for the students who were obviously proud of their works that were inventive and showed great resourcefulness by their creators, and parents and visitors were fascinated and impressed.

Aside from the displays in each room, the night was capped off by an entertaining show by many of the classes, with Juffrow Douglas officiating. The children wrote and performed a number of skits and choreographed their own dance numbers. One dance show contrasted the modern way of dancing to more traditional island waltzes, demonstrating the "Generation Gap," while another highlighted the holiday dress and history of the celebration of "San Juan Dera Gai," which took place on Saturday, June 24.

Some of the skits and production numbers reflected the children's concern for the future of their ecology and environment. Quite entertaining and thought provoking was a fashion show of what we will be wearing in fifty years, with the clothes all designed for the purpose of protecting people from the intense sun and ultraviolet rays to which the depletion of the ozone layer will expose us. Noted fashion designers would envy the students style and flair.

The only competition of the fair was conducted amongst the students of Juffrow Cathy Helder's Geology classes, third level, the equivalent of the ninth grade in the U.S. Four classes of twenty-eight students each were divided into groups of four and assigned one of seven topics that relate to the Aruba's geological make-up. The assignments included The Coastlines North or West, Volcanoes, Rock Formations, Cave Formations, Geological Striations and Content, and The Dunes. There will be a winner in each category, and an overall best winner. The students will receive gift baskets with items donated by Consales, Compra, N.V., SETAR N.V., The Aruba Aloe Factory and Ritz. By the end of the evening, the judges had not yet made their decisions.

Maria Colege is a school with over 500 students, and the central courtyard was filled to capacity with the student body accompanied by family and friends for this most entertaining and informative evening. It offered the students an opportunity to shine in presenting their talents and creativity. They proved to show remarkable intelligence and wit in their shows and in the fashion in which they presented the information they were assigned. Their enthusiasm was obvious, and the results were a treat for the entire community.